AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~performed by a computing system~~ to enhance metadata associated with media ~~on a communications network~~, ~~said~~ the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

retrieving ~~said~~ the metadata from a media source ~~on the communications network~~ from which ~~said~~ the media is available;

parsing ~~said retrieved~~ the metadata associated with ~~said~~ the media into ~~at least one field~~ a plurality of fields of the metadata;

identifying, using a processor, an incorrect field of the metadata by comparing ~~contents of each of said at least one field~~ the fields of the metadata with ~~contents of at least one field~~ corresponding fields of accurate metadata of the media stored in a valid database, the incorrect field of the metadata not matching a corresponding field of the accurate metadata ~~from an authoritative source whose accuracy is known, each field of metadata compared with each field of authoritative metadata being a compared field, wherein the authoritative source is not a person, is not said media, and is not said media source from which said metadata was retrieved~~; and

~~modifying said~~ correcting the metadata by modifying the incorrect field of the metadata based on the corresponding field of the accurate metadata ~~if said compared field contents do not match the contents of at least one field of authoritative metadata, wherein code implementing the method is stored in memory of the computing system for execution by a processor of the computing system~~.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

~~wherein said step of modifying said metadata comprise at least one of replacing said compared field with a corresponding field of said authoritative metadata, correcting said compared field in accordance with a corresponding field of said authoritative metadata, and~~ adding ~~at least one~~ a field of ~~authoritative~~ the accurate metadata to ~~said~~ the metadata.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method in accordance with claim 1,

wherein ~~said authoritative~~ the accurate metadata is obtained from at least one of a multimedia file, a streaming media file, a uniform resource indicator (URI), a database, a media file header, a media file footer, a metatag, and a transport stream.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving ~~said metadata and corresponding~~ media files~~, wherein said corresponding media files are~~ formatted in at least one of a plurality of formats;

providing media files formatted in the same format and associated metadata to a corresponding format specific metadata extractor;

determining if a media file is unavailable or corrupt; and

if ~~said~~ the media file is unavailable or corrupt, performing ~~said step of~~ the comparing step at a predetermined time in the future.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the media comprises at least one of an extension selected from the group consisting of .ram, .rm, .rpm, .mov, .qif, .wma, .cmr, .avi, .swf, .swl, .mpg, .mpa, .mpl, .mp2, .mp3, .m3a, and .m3u.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the metadata ~~comprise~~ comprises elements related to at least one of content of the media, intellectual property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the media comprises at least one of multimedia and streaming media.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method in accordance with claim 1, ~~wherein said communications network is~~ further comprising connecting the media source, the valid database, and a computer comprising the processor to a ~~computer~~ network.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer system for enhancing metadata associated with media ~~on a computer network~~, the ~~said~~ computer system comprising ~~at least one computer, all computers in said system being communicatively coupled to each other, wherein each of said at least one computer includes at least one~~ a

processor and a memory for storing a program, which when executed by the processor causes the ~~stored therein for allowing communication between each and every of said at least one computer, each of said at least one program operating in conjunction with one another to cause said at least one~~ computer system to perform the steps of:

parsing ~~said~~ the metadata associated with ~~said~~ the media into ~~at least one field~~ a plurality of fields of the metadata, wherein ~~said~~ the metadata is retrieved from a media source ~~on the communications network~~ from which ~~said~~ the media is available;

identifying an incorrect field of the metadata by comparing ~~contents of each of said at least one field~~ the fields of the metadata with ~~contents of at least one field~~ corresponding fields of accurate metadata of the media stored in a valid database, the incorrect field of the metadata not matching a corresponding field of the accurate metadata ~~from an authoritative source whose accuracy is known, each field of metadata compared with each field of authoritative metadata being a compared field, wherein said authoritative source is a database~~; and

~~modifying said~~ correcting the metadata by modifying the incorrect field of the metadata based on the corresponding field of the accurate metadata ~~if said compared field contents do not match contents of at least one field authoritative metadata; and~~

~~storing said modified metadata in an index, wherein said index is not said authoritative source, is not said media, and is not said media source from which said metadata was retrieved~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having embodied thereon a program for causing a processor to enhance metadata associated

with media ~~on a communications network~~, the ~~said~~ computer-readable storage medium comprising:

instructions to cause ~~said~~ the processor to parse ~~said~~ the metadata associated with ~~said~~ the media into ~~at least one field~~ a plurality of fields of the metadata, wherein ~~said~~ the metadata is obtained from a media source ~~on the communications network~~;

instructions to cause ~~said~~ the processor to identify an incorrect field of the metadata by comparing the fields ~~compare contents of each of said at least one field~~ of the metadata with ~~contents of at least one field~~ corresponding fields of accurate metadata of the media stored in a valid database, the incorrect field of the metadata not matching a corresponding field of the accurate metadata ~~from an authoritative source whose accuracy is known, each field of metadata compared with each field of authoritative metadata being a compared field, wherein said authoritative source is a database, and wherein said authoritative source is not said media source~~; and

instructions to cause ~~said~~ the processor to ~~modify said~~ correct the metadata by modifying the incorrect field of the metadata based on the corresponding field of the accurate metadata ~~if said compared field contents do not match contents of at least one field of authoritative metadata; and~~

~~instructions to cause said processor to store said modified metadata in an index, wherein said index is not said authoritative source, is not said media, and is not said media source~~.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, further comprising:

instructions to receive ~~said metadata and corresponding~~ media files~~, wherein said media files are~~ formatted in at least one of a plurality of formats;

instructions to provide media files formatted in the same format and associated metadata to a corresponding format specific metadata extractor;

instructions to determine if a media file is unavailable or corrupt; and

instructions to perform ~~said step of~~ the comparing step at a predetermined time in the future if ~~said~~ the media file is unavailable or corrupt.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein ~~said~~ the media comprises at least one of an extension selected from the group consisting of .ram, .rm, .rpm, .mov, .qif, .wma, .cmr, .avi, .swf, .swl, .mpg, .mpa, .mpl, .mp2, .mp3, .m3a, and .m3u.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, ~~wherein said means for causing said processor to modify said metadata performs at least one of the following actions selected from the group consisting of replacing said compared field with a corresponding field of said authoritative metadata, correcting said compared field in accordance with a corresponding field of said authoritative metadata, and~~ further comprising:

instructions for adding ~~at least one~~ a field of ~~authoritative~~ the accurate metadata to ~~said~~ the metadata.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein ~~said authoritative~~ the accurate metadata is obtained from at least one of ~~the following sources selected from the group consisting of~~ a multimedia file, a streaming media file, a uniform resource indicator (URI), a database, a media file header, a media file footer, a metatag, and a transport stream.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein ~~said~~ the metadata ~~comprise~~ comprises elements related to at least one of ~~the following types selected from the group consisting of~~ content of the media, intellectual property rights associated with the media, and instantiation of the media.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein ~~said~~ the media [[is]] comprises at least one of ~~the following media selected from the group consisting of~~ streaming media and multimedia files formatted in at least one of a plurality of formats.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, further comprising:

instructions to determine whether the ~~authoritative source~~ valid database qualifies as a ground truth database by calculating a score representing a degree of similarity between ~~contents of at least one field~~ the fields of ~~noisy~~ the metadata and ~~contents of at least one field~~ the corresponding fields of the accurate metadata from the

~~authoritative source~~ valid database, wherein the ~~authoritative source~~ valid database qualifies as [[a]] the ground truth database if the ~~calculated~~ score satisfies a threshold value.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer~~ system of claim 9, wherein ~~said at least one~~ the computer further performs ~~the step of~~:

calculating a score representing a degree of similarity between ~~contents of at least one field~~ the fields of ~~noisy~~ the metadata and ~~contents of at least one field~~ the corresponding fields of the accurate metadata from the ~~authoritative source~~ valid database;

comparing the ~~calculated~~ score to a threshold value; and

determining whether the ~~authoritative source~~ valid database qualifies as a ground truth database~~, wherein the authoritative source qualifies as a ground truth database if the calculated score satisfies the threshold value~~ based on the comparison.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

comparing ~~contents of at least one field~~ the fields of ~~noisy~~ the metadata with ~~at least one field~~ the corresponding fields of the accurate metadata from the ~~authoritative source~~ valid database;

based on the comparison, calculating a score representing a degree of similarity between the ~~noisy~~ metadata and the accurate metadata ~~from the authoritative source~~; and

when the ~~calculated degree of similarity~~ score satisfies a threshold ~~degree of similarity~~ value, determining ~~indicating~~ that the ~~authoritative source~~ valid database is a ground truth database.

21. (New) A computer-implemented method to enhance metadata associated with media, the method comprising:

receiving media files formatted in at least one of a plurality of formats;

providing media files formatted in the same format and associated metadata;

determining, using a processor, if a media file is unavailable or corrupt;

upon determining that the media file is not unavailable or corrupt:

retrieving metadata associated with the media file from a media source from which the media file is available;

parsing the metadata associated with the media file into a plurality of fields of the metadata;

comparing the fields of the metadata with corresponding fields of accurate metadata of the media file stored in a valid database;

calculating a score representing a degree of similarity between the fields of the metadata and the corresponding fields of the accurate metadata based on the comparison of the fields and the corresponding fields;

comparing the score to a threshold value;

determining, using the processor, whether the valid database qualifies as a ground truth database based on the comparison of the score and the threshold value;

upon determining that the valid database qualifies as the ground truth database:

identifying, using the processor, an incorrect field of the metadata that does not match a corresponding field of the accurate metadata; and

correcting the metadata associated with the media file by modifying the incorrect field of the metadata based on the corresponding field of the accurate metadata.